

via pacis

The Voice of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community

December
2004
Vol. 28, No. 4

Ammon Hennacy in Des Moines



Ammon Hennacy picketing against atomic testing, Las Vegas, June 18, 1957. (UPI photo.) Courtesy of the Catholic Worker Archives, Marquette University.

Ron Roberts
Emeritus Professor
University of Northern Iowa

Ron Roberts is a retired Sociology Professor from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls. Ron introduced several generations of UNI students to critical social and political thinking. A long time peace and justice activist, Ron opened my eyes to the whole anti-Vietnam war movement when I was an undergrad at UNI between 1969 and 1973. It was in his class that I first heard the term the Military Industrial Complex. He has remained a dear friend ever since. — Frank Cordaro

In February of 1961, Drake University was much the same as it is now, a middle-sized school with students from the Midwest attending. It was conservative, in the sense of not discussing radical ideas or radical people in its curriculum. I was newly married, a senior at Drake, driving back and forth to campus in a battered Ford. It was February 1961 and I was anxious to get my last semester over with.

One afternoon in Dr. Ruth Hoffman's Sociological Theory

course, I got settled in the class with my only friend at Drake, Dick Phillips. We looked up as Dr. Hoffman announced there would be a guest speaker. He seemed to be of average height and he was dressed like my father when he went to work at the John Deere plant. That is to say, a blue chambray shirt, green brown work pants and a thin gray jacket which did not look warm enough for the cold foggy day we had in Des Moines that day. I wondered what was up here.

Two young women from the American Friends Service Committee introduced Ammon Hennacy to us. First impression: This guy is a hobo of some sort or perhaps a nut or maybe both. "I want to talk about the need for peaceful solutions to nuclear problems. A few months ago I was arrested for not running to a fallout shelter during a test for nuclear war. I am telling you that our government is lying to us when they say we could survive a nuclear war. No one will survive it or the few survivors will envy the dead. Our government is planning for nuclear war be-

cause it is the only solution they can see to the nuclear arms race we are in. And you, your friends and family and the children of the world are expendable in that race."

Now Hennacy was getting to me. I had recently left the Mormonism of my family and religion altogether. I had been reading scary things about the nuclear arms race and the governments secrecy about these megadeath weapons. I was impressed. Ammon told the class that the most important piece of sociological theory they could use was to "Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you. And to one that smites in the one cheek offer him the other; and him who taketh away thy cloak forbid him not to take away thy coat also. (Luke 6, 25 to 29.)

I was as cynical as any good former Mormon could be, but just as I wanted to write Ammon off as a nut he would make some telling point about war, pacifism and the Christian/Human obligation to the poor that would tune me in again. He seemed to (See "Roberts" p4.)

Eleven arrested on election day as local peace activists vote with their feet.

Frank Cordaro
Des Moines Catholic Worker

Thirty five people attended the "Vote With Your Feet Anti-War Rally and Nonviolent Direct Action" at the Iowa National Guard Headquarters just north of Des Moines. This was the fourth anti-war direct action at the Guard.

After brief talks by Chet Gwynn, Brian Terrell, and Eddie Bloomer—and creative cheers by the Radical Cheer Leaders—eleven demonstrators, nine adult and two high school students, walked hand-in-hand across the road to the main gate of the Guard Headquarters.

The Gate was closed and barricaded behind with large cement road blocks. The protesters used a step ladder to climb over the fence, and then stepped onto the cement road blocks entering the

property. They were greeted by National Guard security people and Polk County Sheriffs officers. All were hand cuffed and taken to police vans in the park-

ing lot. After all eleven were lined up next to the police vans, each demonstrator was asked individually by Iowa National Guard JAG Officer Michael Kuehn if

they wished to leave the Armory property and not be arrested. Chris Gaunt, a veteran peace activist, and wishing to test Officer (See "Eleven arrested" p2.)

"Open wide the prison gates and we must enter them as a bridegroom enters the bridal chambers. Peace, justice and freedom are to be won only inside prison walls and sometimes on Gallows, never in council chambers, courts, or in the school room." — Mahatma Gandhi



Crossing the line. Twelve people, including two high school students, cross the road approaching the main gate of the Iowa National Guard Headquarters in Johnston, IA. Spencer Pierce, far left, carries a ladder to scale the gate. From l-r: Spencer Pierce, Brian Terrell, Jay Kozel, Frank Cordaro, Fran Fuller, Eddie Bloomer, Renee Espeland, and Tom Schmitz. Not pictured, but in the background and also crossing are Chris Gaunt, Duncan Pierce, and John Heid from Luck, Wisconsin. Photo: Press Citizen, Des Moines.

Editor

Frank Cordaro

Layout

Tom Schmitz

Online

www.desmoinescatholicworker.org

Who We Are

The Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, founded in 1976, is a response to the Gospel call to compassionate action as summarized by the Catholic Worker tradition.

We are committed to a simple, nonviolent life-style as we live and work among the poor. We directly serve others by opening our home for those in need of food, clothing, bedding, a shower, or a cup of coffee and conversation. We also engage in activities that foster social justice.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 4551
Des Moines, IA 50306

Community

■ Bishop Dingman House

1310 7th St., 50314
515-243-0765

RESIDENTS: Jerry Dermody

Norman Searah
Michael Thompson
Tom and Tak Schmitz
Elton Davis

■ Msgr. Ligutti House

1301 8th St.
515-280-1216

RESIDENTS: Jackie Robinson

Bill and Jack Petsche
Jamie and Dustin Mayabb
Emily Sinnwell

■ Lazarus House

1317 8th St.
515-246-1499

RESIDENTS: Ed Bloomer

The Dawson family:
Carla, Julius, Joshua,
Jordan
Irving Schroeder
Cecilia Gutierrez

■ Phil Berrigan House

713 Indiana St.
515-282-4781

cordaro@mchsi.com

RESIDENTS: Frank Cordaro

Fran and Mike Fuller

■ The Chiapas Project

Chiapas, Mexico
Richard Flamer
flamerichard@hotmail.com

Subscriptions

Free. To subscribe: mail, phone, or e-mail your name and address to cordaro@mchsi.com. Published four times yearly. All photos taken by DMCW members unless otherwise marked.

Join or support these two powerful direct actions

Sun Dec 26–Tue Dec 28, '04

Omaha, NE

"Feast of the Holy Innocents"

The retreat takes place in the basement of St John's Church on Creighton University campus, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE. Directions to Creighton University are at:

<http://guide.creighton.edu/present/getcampus.html>

Join us as we explore the deeper meaning of the season. Using Mathew's infant narrative from the Gospel, we examine the links between King Herod, his killing of innocent children in Bethlehem, and the murderous deeds of US backed modern day Herods. The Herods of Jesus's day were supported by Roman Army Legions. Our modern day Herods are supported by Offutt's Nuclear and Space Commands.

Come to help us expose, confront, and convert our country's God-awful nuclear weapons' operational headquarters and its War in Space Command through this prayerful three-day retreat and witness at Offutt, the home of our nation's nuclear weapons targeting and command headquarters for over 55 years.

For information contact:

Frank Cordaro, Des Moines
Ph (515) 282-4781
cordaro@mchsi.com

Caitlin Harwood, Omaha
(402) 991-4586
c8lin88@hotmail.com

William Slattery, Omaha
(402) 991-4586
slattwi@yahoo.com

Sat Mar 12–Mon Mar 14, '05

Minneapolis, MN

"Midwest Catholic Worker Resistance Retreat"

The third annual "Midwest CW Resistance Retreat" will focus on Alliant Techsystems (ATK), Minnesota's largest defense contractor and a leading producer of depleted uranium munitions, including over 16 million rounds of depleted uranium munitions, used in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and extensively in Iraq, in both wars, and during the 12 years of US enforced sanctions.

ATK also supplies the rocket stages for Trident first strike nuclear missiles. It's a long-time supplier of cluster bombs which maim and kill indiscriminately, especially children, who have mistakenly handled the unexploded 'duds'.

The retreat includes study and reflection on scripture for grounding and guiding our actions. We'll conclude the retreat on Monday morning with a presence at ATK headquarters in suburban Minneapolis.

Hosted by "Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker" (Duluth, MN), "Winona Catholic Worker" (Winona, MN), and "Anathoth Community Farm" (Luck, WI).

Hospitality can be arranged. Please call ahead if you need housing, other than floor space.

For information contact:

Eileen Hanson
Winona Catholic Worker
832 W. Broadway
Winona, MN 55987
Ph: (507) 454-8094
nonukesinomaha@yahoo.com

(Eleven arrested, from p1.)

Kuehn's offer, requested to leave the property. Good to his word, Chris was allowed to return to the rally and support people without being arrested.

The others were taken into custody. The two juveniles were taken to Myers Hall, the Polk County juvenile detention center and later released to their parents. The eight adults were taken to Polk County Jail. Tom Schmitz, a DM Catholic Worker, bailed out of jail at 1:00a.m. The remaining seven protesters appeared in morning court. Drake Law Professor Sally Frank represented the seven demonstrators. All pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor criminal trespass charges and were released on Personal Recognizance (PR) bonds.

DMCW Ed Bloomer was given an extra charge of interference for not giving his name at the time of arrest. Ed latter co-operated and gave his name at the jail. Ed pleaded innocent to this added charge. The hearing for the nine protesters is scheduled for December 16th.

Even though the Judge verbally gave all seven demonstrators PR bonds, Brian Terrell and Spencer Pierce needed to post \$325 to bail out. Their paper work, sent to the jailers after the court hearing, did not record the judges PR directive. Elton Davis, now serving a ninety-day sentence at Ft. Leavenworth, put up bond money to get Brian and Spencer out of jail.

Those arrested were:

Jay Kozel, 17, Des Moines
Duncan Pierce, 16, Des Moines
Spencer Pierce, 19, Des Moines
Renee Espeland, 43, Des Moines
John Heid, 49, Luck, WI
Brian Terrell, Maloy IA
Fran Fuller, 56, Des Moines
Tom Schmitz, 49, Des Moines
Ed Bloomer, 57, Des Moines
Frank Cordaro, 53, Des Moines

Carla Dawson appointed to Board of Directors of War Resisters League

Carla Dawson, a 16 year community member at DMCW, has recently been named to the Board of Directors of the War Resisters League. She'll be attending her first board meeting in New York City in February 2005. We're proud of you, Carla!

From the Editor

This post election issue of the Via Pacis is an ideal time to recall the 1961 visit of Ammon Hennacy to Des Moines. A conscientious objector and imprisoned in both WWI and WWII, Ammon almost single handedly pushed the Catholic Worker movement in the 1950's from a passive, principled, non-violence position against our war making state, to a position of active, direct nonviolent resistance.

I have known for many years that Ammon Hennacy had visited Des Moines and talked at Drake University. Soon after we started the DMCW, Ron Roberts, my sociology professor at UNI told us of Ammon's visit to Drake and of the lasting impression Ammon made on him. Ron always regretted not being able to tell Ammon in person how much of an impact Ammon's visit to Drake University had made on him. Ammon died before Ron had a chance to reconnect with him.

At the end of his article on Ammon, Ron writes, "Is it possible he knows the effects he had on many of us?" It is not only possible but its a sure thing. Given Ammon's rightful place in God's Kingdom, Ammon knows the full impact of his faithful, lifelong witness to God's nonviolent loving ways. And thanks to Ron's article, the seeds Ammon planted in Des Moines in 1961 continue to bear fruit today. — Peace, FC



Ron Hurley (far left), from the Knights of Columbus in Iowa Falls, brought this youth group to the house recently. And they're planning on returning for another overnight volunteer trip this coming April.

**We badly need
winter coats and
blankets!**

**Mark your
calendar**

Every Friday evening you
are invited to Mass and
Scripture services.
Dingman House, 1310 7th
St., Des Moines.
All are welcome!

Community News

Hi! I hope this article finds everyone outside enjoying this blessed, unseasonably warm weather. We have been really lucky to have such warm weather. We have been extremely busy, with the holidays fast approaching. We have seen the need for everything increase. We have given out more food, coats, clothing, blankets, and personal items than I can count. We are optimistic that with prayer and everyone's support we can continue to help all those who come to us. We have not lost faith in the human spirit to rise to the occasion.

Peace, Carla - DMCW

We would like to thank all the people who bring meals and the people who drop off items and never give us their names so we could send a thank you note. The times seem hard but with everyone doing his or her small part the task doesn't seem so overwhelming. May you keep us in your prayers and we will do the same.

Now on to what is going on in our community. Mike T. has been busy working odd jobs. He is always doing something. If he's not looking out for a friend up the street, or finding someone some pants or a sweatshirt, then he's busy talking to guests.

Tom and Tak have fit in to our community very well. I never would have thought that I was in need of another son until Tak showed up. Tom had his first arrest for protesting. He is not sure if that is where his life is leading him at this time. But he said he was better for having experienced jail time. Tak is having a great start at Roosevelt High School. He has made some new friends and is doing great in his schoolwork. Keep up the great job. Tom is still working with Home Recycling Exchange and really enjoys it.

Elton has been busy getting ready for his possible 6-month jail sentence. He spent a long weekend in Birmingham. He has been trying to keep up the repairs on our bathroom toilet, which is a never-ending battle. (Elton was sentenced to 90 days on Thursday November 18. See his sentencing statement and his information at Leavenworth on page 6.) Keep him in your prayers. And please drop him a line.

Norman has been busy keeping the basement and the front office clean, always an on going struggle. He still drives the van for Trinity United Methodist prison ministry. Norman is very good at helping out.

Bill and Jack Petsche have been adjusting to Jack starting High school also at Roosevelt. Jack was on the Freshmen football team and did very well. He has now started practicing wrestling. Bill's brother John was down for a short visit. If two Petsches is two too many then just guess how much fun three of them are. Bill has been working on his culinary skills and seems to be doing much better at making lunch from what ever is in the refrigerator. Keep cooking Bill.

Jamie and Dustin are in the routine of kindergarten. Dustin goes to King Academy of Math and Science. He loves his teacher. Jamie has been visiting her mom as often as possible. Keep her mom in your prayers as she faces the end of her journey.

Jackie has been busy chauffeuring Eddie and Landon around to appointments. She recently had a sleep-over with her granddaughter Adriana and her great niece Shay. Jackie was a real sport, but I'm sure it will be a long time before she will do that again. She's still working at Drake University Student Health Center. She loves the students and the people she works with.

Emily Sinnwell, a former Faith in Action student, has recently joined our community. She was going to school at Iowa and decided to switch to Mercy School of Nursing. She is an exceptional



Ted Walker, middle, a DMCW from May 2002 to June 2002, was "home for the holidays" for Thanksgiving in Des Moines with his cousins Graham and Jason Stanford from Bethlehem, PA (left and right of Ted). Graham was also a DMCW for a year beginning in May '99 and did a lot of building projects for us. Ted first came here as our summer service intern from The University Notre Dame in 1999. Today, Ted is seriously seeing a lovely girl from Germany (who he brought for a visit last spring) and is studying for a master degree and teaching World Literature at Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY. Graham and Jason are currently knee deep running the South Side Film Festival in Bethlehem. Jackie Robinson and Carla Dawson (left and right of Ted) took the guys to their brother's for Thanksgiving.

young woman. Not only does she go to school full time, she takes shifts at the Worker, has a babysitting job in the early morning, and she also is helping four Sudanese families. The past two summers she has volunteered at an orphanage in Guatemala. That is what I call a young lady on the move. We love you Emily.

Eddie has taken a much needed and deserved vacation. He went to SOA and then on to visit his family in Kentucky. Eddie, for the past few months, has been going every Sunday night to Churches United Homeless Shelter. He has felt blessed to be able to go and hang out and listen and talk to the people there. Eddie is a true inspiration to our whole community; he is the person we all strive to be like.

Cecilia is another new community member. She comes to us from having just left her job as a nanny. She was a nanny with a family for eight years. She is a student at DMACC and is studying to get her Certified Nursing Degree. She is originally from Chile. Her Spanish skills are very much needed. She is a ray of sunshine. She is an excellent cook and she loves to clean. These are two of the best qualities that a catholic worker can have. She also doesn't seem to be put off by the number of

teenage boys in the community. Thanks for journeying with us.

Julius is taking classes at DMACC. He loves all of the Professors. He is doing extremely well. He is also working at DMACC through the Work Study program. He is truly stepping up to the plate when it comes to his education. I am so proud.

Joshua and Jordan are trying to see which one of them can break me down first. Jordan has brought all of his grades up. Josh is discovering that he likes to cook. Please keep them in your prayers. The road to being and to adulthood is filled with detours.

Irving has been a little less busy since we have been blessed with a new washer and dryer. He still has enough laundry to keep a laundry mat going. He is still canning and trying to keep an eye on the boys. Thanks Irving for being my eyes and ears when I'm not there.

Jerry has been doing really well taking his medicine and trying to stay healthy. He is possibly looking in to other living arrangements.

Frank has been busy fixing up Berrigan House. He is trying to decide how best to respond to the election, and the continued war in Iraq.

Fran and Mike Fuller are busy getting back into community life.

Fran says, "Living in community is the best thing". Mike has been working all kinds of crazy shifts. He probably doesn't know if he is coming or going. Fran, Tom, and Tak all took a four-day course on meditation. It is great to see them looking at other forms of spirituality.

We have been blessed to have great groups of college students coming down almost every weekend. These students are from Grinnell, Simpson, and Iowa State. They have planted trees, raked leaves, cleared the community garden, put away clothing, and helped prepare and serve meals. They are an excellent group of young women and men. We would like to thank you and tell you all that you are expected back anytime, and soon.

Thank you all to the many people who help the Catholic Worker Community. We know and would like you to know that without all of your prayers and support we would not be able to continue our hospitality. With the holiday season upon us may we keep in mind that there are many among us who are not as privileged as we are. May we be ever mindful in how we treat each another. May your holidays be blessed. And may there be Peace on Earth. - Peace, Carla

Norman's Whereabouts

By Norman Searah, DMCW Community Member

Ever since I've learned that I have diabetes, I've been changing, giving up a lot of things, material things, habits, and the way I think and see things. I'm finding myself a lot trying to understand my wants and needs. I gave away a television and a DVD player because I was becoming addicted to them. Instead of putting them away, I gave them away. Just like I gave away two other televisions before. I figure that before I leave the Des Moines Catholic Worker in two or three more years, I'll get another television. And give that one away, too.

I gave away a lot of other stuff too - books, clothes, tools - almost anything I feel and think that a certain person can use. I give it to them. By giving up habits and addictions I find myself being a little bit more honest to people and to God, and mostly to the people in community.

I believe that when you live and work in a community like the Catholic Worker you need to be open to the truth and honest to each other, and to others that you serve, no matter what the issues are, feelings are, good or bad secrets are.

Like, besides my diabetes there's my weight - I'm 235 pounds.

I haven't had any luck starting a diabetic support group even though there are

quite a few diabetics who come to the house to eat.

I'm giving up driving the community van so I can preserve the dream of getting a job, so that I can get a truck or van and finally go home to Massachusetts and visit my mother and family. I've been telling people that they should go home to visit their mothers and fathers while they are still living. So I am going to try harder to get home.

I like watching movies. The last movie I watched on DVD was a Native American movie called "Skins". It's about two brothers and what life is like on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Sometime ago I made about three or four trips with a lot of stuff that people could use to both Rose Bud and Pine Ridge Reservations. I would like to make an additional trip or two up there with more stuff.

I would like to take Frank Cordaro along, so while on the Rose Bud Reservation we can visit the town of St. Francis where his mother Angie taught school when she was young. I'd support this clinic on Pine Ridge Reservation if I were rich, and I'd be supporting other tribes in this country of ours, too, and not just for diabetes, alcoholism, and all the wrong things we've done and passed-on to them. So some time after I get a job, then a van or truck will come in handy, and I'll be asking you for things to take along. I thank you for your time.

Utah Phillips on Ammon Hennacy

From a 1996 collaborative musical CD by Utah Phillips & Ani DiFranco, "Past Didn't Go Anywhere," from a track called "Anarchy." Utah Phillips is a movement folksinger and long time friend of the Catholic Worker movement.

I was so mad at what I'd seen and done in Korea, I wasn't sure I could ever live in the country again. So when I returned, I got on the freight train up north of Seattle and kind of cruised the country for two years making up songs. But I was drunk most of the time and forgot most of the songs I wrote.

I'd heard that there was a house in Salt Lake City by the Stockyards, where there was a clothing barrel and free food. I got off the train there. I was headed for Salt Lake anyway. I found that house right where they said it was and most of all, I found this wiry old man, 69 years old. Tougher than nails, heart of gold, a fellow by the name of Ammon Hennacy.

Anybody know that name? Ammon Hennacy?

One of Dorothy Day's people. The Catholic Workers. During the 30's, they started houses of hospitality all over the country. There are about 150 of them now. Ammon Hennacy was one of those who'd come west, to Salt Lake to start this house. He called it the Joe Hill House of Hospitality.

Ammon Hennacy was a Catholic anarchist, pacifist, draft-dodger of two world wars, tax refuser, vegetarian, one-man revolution in America. I think that about covers it.

First thing he did after he got to know me was he said, "You know you love the country. You love it. You come in and out of town on these trains singing songs about different places and beautiful people. You know you love the country. You just can't stand the government. Get it straight."

He quoted Mark Twain, "Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it deserves it."

"Get it straight," he told me.

It was an essential distinction I had been neglecting. And then

he had to reach out and grapple with the violence but he did that to all the people around there. Second World War vets, you know, on medical disabilities and all drunk up. The House was filled with violence that Ammon the pacifist dealt with. Every moment, every day of his life.

"You've got to be a pacifist." Ammon said, "Why? It'll save your life." And my behavior was very violent then.

And I said, "What is it?" And Ammon said, "Well, I can't give you a book by Gandhi. You wouldn't understand it. I can't give you a list of rules that if you sign it, you're a pacifist."

Ammon said, "You look at it like booze. You know alcoholism will kill somebody, until they finally get the courage to sit in a circle of people like that and put their hand up in the air and say, 'Hi. My name is Utah and I'm an alcoholic.' And then you can begin to deal with the behavior you see. You can have the people define it for you whose lives you have destroyed."

And it's the same with violence you know. An alcoholic, they could be dry for 20 years and they're never going to sit in that circle and put their hands up and say, "Well, I'm not an alcoholic any more." No, they're still going to put their hand up and say, "Hi. My name's Utah and I'm an alcoholic." It's the same with violence. You've got to be able to put your hand in the air and acknowledge your capacity for violence and then deal with the behavior and have the people whose lives your violence effects define that behavior for you, you see.

And it's not going to go away. You're going to be dealing with it every moment and in every situation for the rest of your life.

I told Ammon, "OK. I'll try that."

And Ammon said, "It's not enough."

And I said, "Oh."

Ammon explained, "You were born a white man in mid-twentieth century industrial America. You came into the

world armed to the teeth with an arsenal of weapons. The weapons of privilege, racial privilege, sexual privilege, economic privilege. If you want to be a pacifist, it's not just giving up guns and knives and clubs and fists and angry words but giving up the weapons of privilege and going into the world completely disarmed."

Try that.

That old man has been gone now twenty years, and I'm still at it. But I figure if there's a worthwhile struggle in my own life, that's probably the one. Think about it.

I've always wanted to write a song for that old man. He never wanted one about him. He was that way.

Oh so many times, Ammon stood up in front of Federal District Judge Ritter, that old fart, and if picked up for picketing illegally, he never pled innocent or guilty. He pled anarchy. And Ritter would say, "What's an anarchist, Hennacy?" And Ammon would say, "Why an anarchist is anybody who doesn't need a cop to tell him what to do." Kind of a fundamentalist anarchist, huh?

And Ritter would say, "But Ammon, you broke the law. What about that?" And Ammon would say, "Ah Judge, your damn laws. The good people don't need them and the bad people don't obey them, so what use are they?" Now that's Anarchy.

Well, I lived there for eight years and I watched him. And I discovered watching Ammon that anarchy is not a noun but an adjective. It describes the tension between moral autonomy and political authority, especially in the area of combinations whether they're going to be voluntary or coercive. And the most destructive coercive combinations are arrived at by force. Force is the weapon of the weak.

Anybody know that name? Ammon Hennacy?

The Book of Ammon

Ammon's memoirs, "The Book of Ammon", published in 1994, is out of print, but some Catholic Worker Communities have many extra copies. Contact us if you're interested in obtaining a copy.



Ammon Hennacy arrested by U.S. Marshall Raab, Mead AFB, Aug 24, 1959. Photo courtesy of the Catholic Worker Archives, Marquette University.

(Roberts on Ammon, cont. from page 1.)

have this same effect on a number of other people too, so we ended class with the idea that we would go to the apartment of my friend Dick Phillips, a couple of blocks off campus.

I remember asking Ammon, "How would you deal with someone who would come at you to do you harm at one of your demonstrations?"

"I would turn to them with open hands, palms out, Ammon said, 'I have done this more than once and I find it dissolves anger in most people. Others can do what they will. I have never been badly hurt doing this. I was in prison during World War II for my anti-war agitation and I was never hurt for my radical beliefs.'"

At the time, Ammon was one of the two most important figures in the Catholic Worker movement, but was he Catholic? He was hypercritical of the Catholic Bishops who were "cheerful Cheerleaders for the nuclear arms race. They are lemmings too." He kept quoting the Prince of Peace against church bureaucracy. Speaking truth to power is not in the repertoire of cowards and hypocritical bureaucrats.

He was familiar with the traditional "peace churches" such as the Quakers, Hutterites, and Brethren. He sometimes spoke about the burnings of heretics and the blessings of war. He also spoke with great affection for those in the church who fought for peace and humanity.

What I guess Ammon didn't like was the way authority was used in the church. He knew all about the rebellious, often tragic, leaders of the American labor movement—Mother Jones, Joe Hill, and the like. "Learn about them if you want, be educated morally and understand this country's history," he told us. I later did that.

He told us favorably impressed students that he was leaving Des

Moines in the next couple of days for Salt Lake City to fight Mormonism's racism and "Jim Crowism". Being a newly ex-Mormon myself, that impressed the hell out of me.

When we offered to raise some money for his trip to Salt Lake, he told us students not to send him away with more than \$5.00 because Federal agents, who saw him as a subversive, would take away any cash he had for non-payment of taxes. Ammon's life of voluntary poverty was hard for a working class kid like me to understand.

More and more I was confused with Ammon's presence and radical—put your life on the line—questioning of Christianity.

Our session with Ammon didn't break up until 2:00a.m. Dick Phillips and I talked about Ammon's visit for several weeks. A month or two after Ammon's visit I joined the Student Peace Union. Dick and I later got involved in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. We lost touch with each other for a while but we reconnected in Louisiana. We both got involved in civil rights work.

When I came back to Iowa at the end of the 60's, I picked up the Catholic worker and read about Ammon's work establishing the Joe Hill House in Salt Lake City and his picketing the racist policies of the Mormon church on the famous Temple square. I decided I had to write Ammon a letter saying, "You don't remember me, but I was a smart-ass senior at Drake University there. You really made an impact on my life" and much more.

I never got a chance to mail that half written letter because the next copy of the Worker told of his death. Is it possible he knows now about the effects he had on many of us? He was not an egotistical man in anyway; just a working man who cared about human kind and it's suffering and did something about it.

What They Believe: Ammon Hennacy

by Cleve Canhan

This article appeared in the February 17, 1961 edition of Drake University's "Time-Delphic."

An oversized Old Glory pinned to the wall behind him, Ammon Hennacy told his audience in the Odd Fellows' Hall Wednesday night why he doesn't vote, doesn't pay income tax, has never registered for the draft, and why he believes that although he may not change the world, "it sure won't change me."

His background was not inappropriate, for what he discussed—peace and survival—are as American as the Fourth of July. What does he believe, this man

with the lithe frame, gaunt features, sad Irish eyes, and prison-grey hair?

This man who calls himself a pacifist, anarchist, and Catholic in that order is also a Christian communist who believes in direct control of enterprise by the workers—but not the Marxian's idea of state-owned industry.

He's a True Believer

This man who is an amalgam of some of humanity's differences (he's an Irishman with a Jewish first name who was raised a Christian Scientist and converted to Catholicism) has none of the proselytizing personality of a Billy Graham, but

musters all the confidence of the man with a mission, the true believer—enough confidence to declare:

"Every day the government says pay taxes. Every day I don't. Every day the government loses. Every day I win. I'm a one-man revolution. I can't lose."

Hennacy says that taxes help pay for wars, and being a pacifist, he abhors war.

As a Roman Catholic, Hennacy says frankly: "I've got more fights among Catholics." He professes belief in his church's basic truths—but splits from Roman

(continued on p. 5)

What's next after the election? Thoughts from Terrell and Cordaro.

Brian Terrell

Maloy, Iowa Catholic Worker

From Point Blank Magazine, a weekly progressive publication in central Iowa, November 10, 2004.

"What's next?" everyone is asking in the aftermath of the 2004 election. His adoption of Bruce Springsteen's "No Surrender" as an unofficial theme song notwithstanding, Democratic candidate John Kerry is calling for healing and pledging to support George W. Bush in bringing the country back together now after a divisive campaign. But the healing Kerry calls for is no real healing and is a disastrous idea for this country.

Now is not a time for healing. It is a time for division and for polarization. This is not a time to smooth over differences. It is crucial now to articulate and define those differences, not a time for cooperation, but for resistance. The tension that exists between Americans at odds with each other must not be eased, but encouraged at all costs.

It may seem strange for me, a "peace activist" to call for polarization and for ratcheting up tension, but nothing could be more

dangerous in these times than for activists to be lulled into inaction for the cause of a false peace.

The more respectable and responsible clergy of Birmingham, Alabama accused Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963 because the marches he led created tension and violence in that otherwise peaceful city. Answering those who called for unity in that fractious time, Dr. King replied that he was not afraid of the word "tension," denying, though, that those who resist are the creators of tension and violence. "We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive," he wrote to his detractors from the Birmingham City Jail. "We bring it out into the open where it can be seen and dealt with. Like a boil that can never be cured so long as

it is covered up but must be opened with all its pus-flowing ugliness to the natural medicines of air and light, injustice must likewise be exposed, with all the tension its exposing creates, to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured."

We need to be clear on this: the man elected to a second term as president of the United States is a fascist and a war criminal and we cannot find common ground with George W. Bush without

being an accomplice to his crimes.

How did we get here? Polls show that the majority of those who voted for Bush believe things that are simply untrue and believe them despite all evidence and W's own denials. Without the votes of those who believe there is proof that Iraq supported Al Qaeda and had weapons of mass destruction and was close to having nuclear bombs, Bush would never have been elected. Churches bear responsibility, too, for confusing Bush's blasphemous and habitual violations of the second commandment (thou shall not use the name of the Lord) as piety and his insistence on criminalizing abortion by being pro-life. The Democratic Party deserves some blame for offering a candidate who

was only marginally (if that) a lesser evil than Bush. Calling the war in Iraq a "mistake", one that he could fix and a war that he could "win", rather than denouncing it as a crime and intractable quagmire that it is, Kerry helped give a veneer of legitimacy to a crime against humanity.

After getting arrested for protesting a war both candidates were committed to prolonging, I could think of no better place to spend election night than in the Polk County Jail. I heard the results, then, of the election later than most, not until getting sprung late afternoon on Wednesday. Sore from a sleepless night on concrete, the news was a kick in the gut, but I do not know that news of a Kerry victory would have felt a whole lot better.

The question again is "what's next?" What's next, now, is the same as it would be if the election went otherwise. We take to the streets. We protest. We make of our whole lives a resistance to war and oppression. We strive to love one another and those the State names our enemy.

Frank Cordaro

Des Moines Catholic Worker

From Point Blank Magazine, as above.

The greatest challenge the country faces today is no different than it was before the election. We need to stop denying the dark side of our national behavior.

From a Christian and a Catholic Worker perspective, the solution rests, in part, with our ability to rehabilitate our understanding of Jesus. Most of what goes for Christianity these days is at odds with who and what Jesus and the early church were all about. We have taken a religion, based originally upon a "bottom-up" bias for the poor, the weak and the socially marginalized, and turned it upside down, making it a religion for the rich, the powerful and the social elite. As a result, Christianity has become a "top-down" partner of world empires, the USA being only its most recent.

Further, Christianity today embraces state-sanctioned violence. Most church-going Christians in America support the death penalty. This issue of violence vs. nonviolence for U.S.

Christians is both central to human survival and what it really means to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus was a victim of the death penalty. It would have been unimaginable for the early, pre-Constantine Church to support the death penalty. Why, then, do we now make such a choice? One of the answers may lie in our uncritical look at our claimed religious beliefs.

We should also be clear about John Kerry. He was no peace candidate. John Kerry called the war in Iraq, "the wrong war, at the wrong time, in the wrong place." Yet he ignored the unjust, immoral and illegal nature of our role in the war. His major point was that the war was being poorly managed. When asked what he would do about the war, if elected, Kerry told us he would do a better job than Bush. What kind of peace candidate is that?

ing against draft registration and put into solitary confinement for leading a campaign against bad prison food.

His life has a better storyline than most television shows. He sold Fuller brushes and corn flakes to put himself through college and is still selling—now ideas.

Next Stop—Salt Lake City

In 1950 he fasted for five days from the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Now he's talking of going to Salt Lake City, Utah, to take up with



Jay Kozel, head of Central Iowa Youth Activists and a senior at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, was the first over the fence during the Nov 2, 2004 election day action at the Iowa National Guard HQ. Photo: Press Citizen.

The peace-minded Kerry people, with whom I have talked, believe Kerry's pro-war, hawkish rhetoric was not what he really believed, but a view which he believed was politically expedient. When a Presidential candidate believes he has to deny his own truth to get elected, it speaks volumes about our own collective denial.

As for the second Bush term, two things come to mind. First, it is much easier to organize a peace movement in this country when a Republican is in the White House. For example, during the Reagan years, the anti-

the Mormons as a migrant laborer.

Dressed in grey pants with a green shirt and a Hopi Indian chain around the neck, Hennacy displayed a wry wit Wednesday night that put most hecklers aside and emphasized his ideas.

"I'm living 95 per cent of what I believe. Of course, I compromise—I wear leather shoes."

"They said to Thoreau, 'You're out of step.' And he said, 'I'm listening to a different drummer.'"

"If you're an anarchist, I think you ought to be a pacifist. And

nuclear weapons movement in the United States was massive.

Second, in recent history, second terms have been "impeachment terms." Nixon and Watergate; Reagan and the Contras; Clinton and Monica. Hopefully, the second

George Bush term will give us enough time to expose and impeach Bush and his administration for the war crimes they are committing.

As for the great national divide we keep hearing about, first we have to ask if there IS a divide. If so, politically speaking, it is not between blue and red states, Democrats and Republicans, social conservatives and liberals, or the church and non-church.

The two-party system in this country is contingent upon a 90 percent agreement on the national agenda. That agenda today is evidenced by the two-party

when you're a Catholic on top of that—My God!—you're way out!"

Seemingly indefatigable, Hennacy proposed to go on through the night. (At East Lansing, he said, 200 students asked questions until 4 a.m.)

As it was, the Students for World Peace, Newman Club members (both groups sponsored his appearance here), and others kept the soft-spoken iconoclast busy until almost midnight.

Hennacy is an intellectual tonic

belief that the United States is the only superpower in the world today, and that it will remain so based upon its superior military power. The only real difference between the parties lies in the "approach" taken to maintain this position. The remaining ten percent of the issues are small potatoes compared to this main course.

If we look beyond the national political structure, there is a growing number of individuals who see the "divide" as one existing between the war makers and the peace makers, the justice seekers and the "just me and mine" people, the "we are all one" view and the "us versus them" view and the powerless poor majority and the powerful rich minority.

For those who find themselves on the gentle, justice-seeking side of this great divide, there is no simple panacea. I personally have found comfort in doing the works of mercy—feeding the poor and administering to the homeless—while tenaciously holding onto and acting upon my personal truths, knowing that no one can take them from me.

For those who have no ideas of their own, however, they may disagree with what he professes. In his own words, Hennacy emphasized: "If I crank you up, don't go dead in five minutes." He continued: "Try to find one way to be a Christian. If I can go the whole way, you can go part of the way."

Hennacy might have included poet Robert Frost among his contributors of wisdom and added that he has "miles to go before he sleeps."

What They Believe (cont. from page 4)

Catholicism on what he regards as fringe elements:

"I've been asked: 'Do you believe in the infallibility of the Pope?' I do when he's infallible. Otherwise he's a Pope talking through a Pope's hat."

He Runs Into Conflict

A man with such a set of ideas is apt to run into conflict with an antithetical society. He does.

He was imprisoned in the Atlanta Prison in 1917 for speak-

Elton Davis's pre-sentence statement before federal magistrate Judge Thalken in Omaha Federal District Court.

Elton Davis
— Des Moines Catholic Worker

On August 6th of 2003, I sat in vigil at the entrance to Offutt AFB, home of STRATCOM, the United States Command and Control center for every nuclear device in the U.S. arsenal. I was with several other people that day, remembering the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan.

As I sat at the gate, a large jet landed on the runway. From confirmed press reports I found out that the Vice-President of the United States was on that jet, and had come to Offutt AFB to meet with a couple of hundred technical experts to discuss the development of new nuclear weapons of mass destruction. And this on the anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons of mass destruction against a civilian population.

I found that extremely callous and arrogant on the part of the administration. As well, with WMDs being the primary justification for invading a sovereign nation "preemptively", I found I could not stand idly by.

Over the course of the following year, I explored knowledge of and resistance to nuclear weapons, and tried to educate myself to what was happening with the "new nukes" discussed at the conference in August of 2003. I met with U.S. senatorial legislative aids and registered my objection to new nuclear weapons of mass destruction. I co-authored a letter from my congregation to the congressional representatives where I live, expressing our concerns about new nuclear WMD's.

In spite of my best efforts to educate legislators to the hazards of developing small tactical nuclear weapons of mass destruction, weapons that could be potentially used at the discretion of a military field commander, the U.S. legislative body voted to approve development of new nuclear weapons. These small "tactical" nuclear WMD's are still larger than the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945. That bomb killed about 100,000 civilians

outright.

The secondary afflictions from this blast lasted decades, and were suffered by a generation as yet unborn at the time of the bombing. To subject an entire generation, not yet conceived, to the horrors of disease as an outcome of violent conflict, is a

countable for this violation of international law. Would it even be possible for the United States to unilaterally adopt the policy of preemptive war against a sovereign state, without this arsenal of nuclear WMDs holding the world hostage at the whim of every U.S. administration since

branch. Their number was 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd snowflake dropped onto the branch, nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off."

Having said that, the sparrow flew away. The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the

horrendous anniversary is to add my puny effort to this movement to abolish nuclear WMD's.

I understand that this court can, with the full authority of the "law of the land", impose a variety of sanctions. I would like to address my position on specific sanctions with the court at this time. I am a full-time member of the Des Moines Catholic Worker community. I receive no wage for providing hospitality to the marginalized members of society, and have no gainful employment outside of this vocation.

Paying a fine is simply beyond my means.

And I feel I should be honest about the prospect of probation with this court. I am not willing to state that I would abide by terms of probation given various world tensions and my felt need to voice my objection to perceived injustices in the strongest possible manner. And I would prefer not to frustrate this court and complicate my life any further by willful disobedience to a directive of this court.

Thank you for your time and patience.



Elton Davis and his support group just prior to his sentencing in Omaha. L-R: Kate Hardwood, William Slatery, Rita Hoenshel, Jean Bassinger, Elton Davis, Eddie Bloomer, Sally Frank, Frank Cordaro, Bill Bassinger, Brian Terrell. For the trial, Elton wore his Sunday best: a Che Guavara T-shirt he picked up at the recent National Lawyers Guild Conference in Birmingham, AL. The prosecution suggested a sixty day sentence. The judge said, "Give him ninety."

crime against humanity of the greatest magnitude. To see the government of the country of my birth celebrating this event as a technological achievement created an internal conflict of equal magnitude.

I found myself at a crisis of conscience. Despite a comprehensive test ban treaty, the U.S. Legislature appropriated funds to develop testing of new nuclear WMDs. And this in direct violation of Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution, which holds duly ratified treaties in supremacy with domestic law.

But there is no court willing to hold the U.S. government ac-

1945?

And so it became, for me, a question of how to address this perceived injustice. My conscience and the "law of the land" were in conflict. I spent many hours trying to discern a reasonable course of action, given the far reaching consequences of developing new nuclear WMDs.

In the end, my conscience prevailed over the "law of the land", and I engaged in direct non-violent action to register my objection to U.S. policy decisions in the strongest possible terms. I know that my effort to abolish nuclear WMDs may seem very insignificant, but please allow me to relate the following story by Kurt Kauter, "Tell me the weight of a snowflake", a sparrow asked of a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing", was the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a story", the sparrow said.

"I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow—not heavily, not a raging blizzard—no, just like in a dream, without a sound and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my

matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world".

Only history will say whether I was one of several million snowflakes that broke the branch that led to the abolition of nuclear WMDs, but I must live in that hope and accept the consequences of adding my weight to that branch.

I will be honest and say that I did this with full awareness of the potential consequences of my actions, and given these potential consequences, undertaking this non-violent direct action was not easy.

But I can now live without a heart divided; and to act in concert with many others on this

How to write and send money to Elton Davis

Elton's Mailing Address:

Elton Davis #19777-047
Leavenworth Detention Center
100 Highway Terrace
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

To send money to Elton:

Go to the Post Office and purchase a "US Postal Money Order" in Elton Davis's name with his Fed Prison #19777-047 printed on the money order, next to his name. You must have his name and number on the US Postal Money Order for Elton to receive the money into his prison account. Note: Elton's release date is Feb 18, 2005.

16,000 gather to demand the closure of SAO

Fran Fuller
— Des Moines Catholic Worker

DMCWers Ed Bloomer and Fran Fuller, along with Rita Hohenshell, Brian Terrell and Bill and Jean Basinger joined more than 16,000 people at the gates of Fort Benning in the annual protest to close the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC). They joined Martin Sheen, Father Roy Bourgeois, Neris Gonzalez, and torture survivors. We heard from Susan Sarandon and Sr. Helen Prejean,

who both called for the closure of the SOA.

Along a procession route, people transformed the fences surrounding the protest site into expressions of hope and remembrance, placing their symbols in and around chain-link barriers.

At the main gate many mourners dressed in black shrouds and carrying coffins lied on the ground in a die-in commemorating those who lost their lives to graduating soldiers of the SOA.

A large Puppet of Mourning accompanied the marchers as

they made their way to the gate. As musicians sang out the names of victims of the School of the Americas, the crowd responded, "Presente!"

Many people negotiated the barbed wire fence to enter the military base in acts of non-violent civil disobedience. The "Welcome to Fort Benning Sign" was transformed by a banner reading "Close the SOA" and decorated with crosses, stars of David and other symbols.

For more information about SOA go to www.socaw.org.



From left to right: Dagmar Hoxie, Rita Hohenshell, Jean Basinger, Fran Fuller, and Brian Terrell take part in the SOA Sunday Solemn Funeral Procession for the victims of SOA trained soldiers on Sun Nov 21, 2004. Eddie Bloomer not pictured. Photo by Bill Basinger.

Sally Frank and Brian Terrell earn central Iowa activist awards

Sally Frank

Professor

Drake University Law School

Whether our work be our work for peace, for human rights, for the environment, for children and education, or for a better local community, we are all part of the same struggle to make this country and world a better place. As Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote in a poem commenting which cause is more important, "The world awoke and softly spoke, work together, work apart, work each of you and do your part. Just get into the game." We have each gotten into the game. I want to challenge all of you to get into the game as well.

This is a very perilous time for our human rights, our civil rights, and for our civil liberties. All are under attack in a way not seen since the 1950's and 60's. We have an administration in Washington that has used the threat and fear of another terrorist attack to attack our constitution and bill of rights. They have equated dissent with aiding terrorists and decided to investigate people and imprison them for advocating positions contrary to the policies of the administration. This, of course, is an old tactic. It is easier to demonize opponents than to deal with real issues. This White House, however, has brought suppression of protest to some new heights.

We once may have thought that all of the United States is a free speech zone. Since Bush took the White House, though we have learned that space anywhere near where he speaks is not a free speech zone. To be allowed into a space, including a public street, where he or Cheney are speaking, one must pledge loyalty to the campaign. Known democrats or opponents are ordered to leave or forbidden to enter his rallies. Although heckling has long been an aspect of public rallies, now people are arrested for holding signs opposing Bush policies where he speaks.

The offenses to human rights and civil liberties go beyond this, however. We have an administration that has disregarded the Geneva Convention and imprisoned and tortured people taken prisoner in Afghanistan. Once at Guantanamo, the prisoners are denied the rights of prisoners of war to have mail contact with family, to get packages, to refuse to answer questions, to be treated humanely, to have a hearing before a neutral board before they can be declared not proper prisoners of war and to have access to counsel. If such a board were to find that they had committed crimes, they had a right to a fair trial before a neutral court, which the administration is refusing to provide. Even after the US Supreme Court ruled that the prisoners have a right to access to the federal courts to challenge their imprisonment, the administration is attempting to block access to the courts by

"CityView", a central Iowa weekly newspaper, honored two of our own during their annual Activist Awards Program on October 5, 2004 in Sheslow Auditorium at Drake University. Here are excerpts of Sally's and Brian's acceptance speeches.

having hearings before kangaroo courts set up by the military. Instead of lawyers, the prisoners are given advisors who are not lawyers and with whom consultations are not confidential. In other words, the advisers become another form of questioning.

The administration has also claimed the right to hold American citizens indefinitely in solitary confinement without access to lawyers and family members and without access to the courts without bringing any charge against

searches and seizures without a warrant have been radically narrowed.

The government gets away with restricting our rights most easily when the people are silent because of fear or apathy. When the people of the United States make it clear that they believe the country is doing the wrong things, the government often backs down. That is what happened in Des Moines last February.

This means that we each have the obligation to speak out and organize if we want things to change. Complaining to our friends and neighbors is not enough. Voting, while crucially important, is also not enough.

We need people to organize, write letters to the editor and to our representatives, write letters to the White House, go to city council meetings, sign petitions,

Brian Terrell

Maloy, Iowa Catholic Worker

It is not out of false humility that I note that this award speaks at least as well of all of you, of the community of Central Iowa, as it does of me. The surprise that the events of last February ended in such a way that we can celebrate them this evening is a credit to many. Oppression such as we experienced here, grand jury subpoenas, undercover infiltration of public meetings, gag orders, pre-emptive arrests and use of riot police to control non-violent demonstrators have been used before when the government has pursued illegal and immoral policies that would not survive open discussion. Usually these techniques have proved to be brutally effective. History records many instances where

communities were intimidated, movements crushed, where activists for equality, justice and peace were scattered, isolated, silenced, where good people were frightened into betraying and denying one another and their own consciences. That did not happen here!

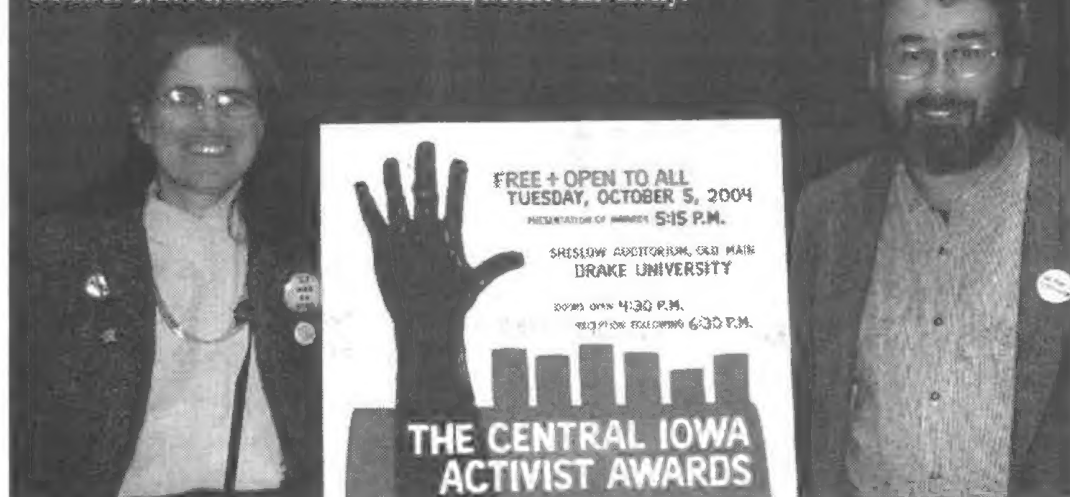
Instead, the government's mischief was met with a cry of real and wounded indignation that was heard and joined by decent people and honest institutions here, around the country and around the world and the Feds and their abettors retreated in confusion. It is gratifying to be here on this campus and that Drake University is a partner in giving these awards, as the message from the Justice Department to Drake and other universities implicit in the subpoena and gag order served here was clear: Do not invite people like me to your campus or you will

have the FBI Terror Task Force breathing down your necks. That I am here today accepting an award instead of in a prison cell is proof that we are not intimidated.

Let us be clear in this time of distress: Our rights to speak and publish as we choose, to address the government, to worship and to live as we believe that we should, are not protected by bombing and occupying Iraq or by threatening friends and enemies with nuclear destruction. Our freedoms are defended now as in every generation by those who exercise those rights regardless of the cost. Our God given responsibility to make this world fit to live in goes beyond participating in elections and the venue of democracy is not the voting booth alone. It is often the street, sometimes the courtroom, sometimes the jail cell. Henry David Thoreau, calling Americans to protest slavery and the war to steal Mexico said this: "Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine. Cast your whole vote, not a strip of paper merely, but your whole influence. A minority is powerless when it conforms to the majority; it is not even a minority then; but it is irresistible when it clogs by its whole weight."

It is unlikely, friends, that the coming election will stop this horrendous war. Remember the promises to get us out of Viet Nam made and broken in the presidential campaigns of 1964, 1968 and again in 1972 as the death toll daily rose. I invite you to consider joining us on the evening of Election Day at the STARC Armory to cast your whole vote against the war in an act of nonviolent civil disobedience.

Sally Frank and Brian Terrell at the Central Iowa Activists Awards, October 5, 2004, Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University.



them. The Supreme Court also found this activity unconstitutional, yet Jose Padilla is still being held that way.

They have created military tribunals to try people they accuse of crimes but to do so without any of the rights guaranteed in the constitution. The so called Justice Department has then used the threat of transferring cases to the military tribunals as a way to coerce guilty pleas from people charged with other crimes.

In the misnamed Patriot Act, passed with Congress's complete roll over, our rights to free speech, assembly, freedom of religion, and to be free from unreasonable

protest. People believe that you can't fight city hall. All of us being honored today have proven that the old adage is wrong. We can fight city hall, the state house, the Capitol, and even the White House, and we can win. But we can only win if we fight.

John Jay Chapman said "Be hated, be ridiculed, be scorned, be in doubt, but never be gagged."

I have tried to live by those words. It isn't easy to allow myself to be hated, ridiculed, scorned, or attacked, but that is better than allowing injustices to occur in my name. Getting involved is the only way to hope to change what is happening or

at least separating ourselves from the actions allegedly taken on our behalf. Will our involvement change the world, bring peace throughout the world and human rights into every country. Most likely not in our lifetimes.

That will probably require the Messiah or the Messianic Age. But such knowledge is no excuse for inaction. As Rabbi Tarfon said in Perkei Avot, The Sayings of the Fathers, a book in the Talmud, "You are not required to complete the task. Neither are you permitted to refrain from it all together." So let's all get started on the task.



(L to R) Barbara Hans, Renee Espeland, and Frank Cordaro. Four brave souls (including Fran Fuller taking the shot) weathered the cold biting winds to vigil at the STARC Armory on Nov 24, 2004. This was our last weekly Wed vigil at STARC. Our future weekly vigils will be in downtown Des Moines, Nollen Plaza, every Thurs., 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Weekly Vigils

**New Place,
Day & Time**

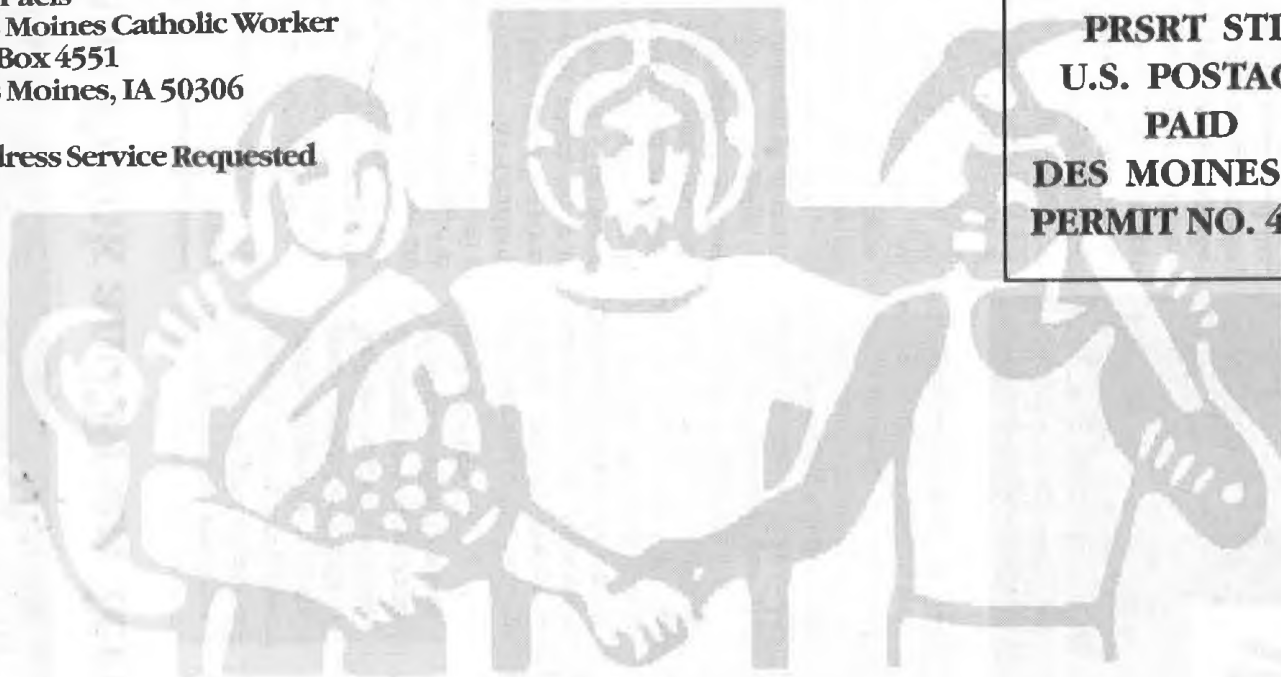
Every Thursday
Nollen Plaza

Downtown Des Moines
11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Via Pacis
Des Moines Catholic Worker
PO Box 4551
Des Moines, IA 50306

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DES MOINES, IA
PERMIT NO. 4171



December 2004

Prayers
Without them,
nothing else
matters.

Worker Wishlist

Volunteers
Individuals and work crews needed
for hospitality (serving food, cleaning-
up), general house cleaning and/or
maintenance. Inside and outside.

Renovation
We need do-it-yourselfers,
carpenters, plumbers
and electricians
to help with:

- Dingman House:**
■ All New Kitchen
■ Fire Escape
Lazarus House:
■ New Roof
■ Fire Escape
Ligutti House:
■ New Windows
■ Foundation Work
■ Fire Escape

We need your donations
or skills!

Donations
Cash donations
are important to
pay taxes, utilities,
supplies, and
regular mainte-
nance.

Winter Survival
Socks
Winter Coats!
Shoes
Jeans
Sleeping Bags
Blankets
Tents

Requesting your help...

■ Pantry & Dairy:

Cereal, Coffee
Canned Fruit
Vegetables
Beans
Soups & Stews
Sugar
Coffee Creamer
Juices
Milk
Cheese
Butter
Eggs

■ Toiletries:

Fem. Pads
Tampons
Disp. Razors
Shaving Cream
Shampoo &
Conditioner
Body Lotion
Facial Lotion
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper

■ Cleaning Supplies:

Bleach
Dish Soap
Murphy's Oil
Soap
Pinesol
Toilet cleaners
Brushes
Sponges

**Over the
Counter
Medicines**
Tylenol
Ibuprofen
Multiple
Vitamins
Ointments

**Peace and
Justice
books for
the Berrigan
House Li-
brary.**

via pacis

The Voice of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community



“Art of War: Christmas”

Drawing in colored chalk
on a schoolroom blackboard.
by Kevin Larmee, Chicago.
Reprinted with permission.
www.musedelarmee.org